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November 29, 2018

Michael J. Wilhelm
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Wireless Emergency Alert Test for North Anna and Surry Nuclear Power Stations
PS Docket No. 15-91

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), which is the primary initiator of public alerts in the Commonwealth of Virginia using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), requests a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule waiver to allow a live test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system and involving Commercial Mobile Service providers conducting business in the following localities:

051033 – Caroline County, VA
051085 – Hanover County, VA
051093 - Isle of Wight County, VA
051095 - James City County, VA
051109 - Louisa County, VA
051700 – Newport News City, VA
051137 – Orange County, VA
051177 – Spotsylvania County, VA
051181 - Surry County, VA
051830 - Williamsburg City, VA
051199 - York County, VA

*Saving lives through effective emergency management and homeland security.
"A Ready Virginia is a Resilient Virginia."*

As proposed, and if approved, the tests would be conducted at 11:10 a.m. on December 12, 2018, for Surry Nuclear Power Station (SPS) and 11:10 a.m. on February 20, 2019, for North Anna Nuclear Power Station (NAPS) targeting the area that corresponds with the sounding of notification sirens, and will be activated from the Commonwealth's Emergency Operations Center following training and consultation with FEMA IPAWS personnel. This test will be in parallel to regular scheduled siren and Emergency Alert System (EAS) tests for both SPS and NAPS and will utilize a live code for WEA and a test code for EAS. No back-up dates are planned due to the desire to conduct these tests concurrent with regularly scheduled siren tests.

The WEA message is planned to be broadcast to cell phones that are located within the 10-mile Emergency Protective Zone for each plant, to wit:

For Surry Power Station 12 December 2018 at 11:10:

- Isle of Wight County, VA
- James City County, VA
- Newport News City, VA
- Surry County, VA
- Williamsburg City, VA
- York County, VA

For North Anna Power Station February 20, 2019 at 11:10:

- Louisa County, VA
- Spotsylvania County, VA
- Orange County, VA
- Caroline County, VA
- Hanover County, VA

The text of the WEA test will read as follows, **"THIS IS A TEST OF THE VIRGINIA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED."** The text of the EAS message will read, **"THIS IS A TEST OF THE VIRGINIA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. THIS IS ONLY A TEST. IF THERE HAD BEEN AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY, FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED."** This test will not be a substitute for the required weekly or monthly EAS test. This will be the first live test of the WEA system for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is being conducted in conjunction with Dominion Power to ascertain the reception and understanding of WEA messaging versus sonic means of notification (sirens) in the event of a nuclear power plant emergency incident. Further, these tests will enhance public safety by ensuring that residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia and those surrounding the nuclear power stations in particular, have fast, actionable and credible information available to them in times of major emergencies. Given the critical need to expose the public to the type of messages they may receive during a time of crisis, anecdotal information on the lack of public

understanding of siren notification and a rapidly expanding population in the area, the Commonwealth feels there is an urgent need to complete these tests now as opposed to waiting until the end-to-end FCC testing rules are put into place in May 2019. Subsequent to each test, Dominion Energy will be conducting a phone survey to determine reception of the message, understanding by the public, geographic reception, and any carrier differences.

VDEM has socialized this effort throughout all affected areas to include local leadership, CMS carriers, and locality public information officers. The Commonwealth of Virginia has prepared an extensive media campaign, utilizing public outreach through press releases and social media, to ensure public understanding of the need and value for the scheduled WEA/EAS tests. All emergency authorities that operate within and adjacent to the affected localities, including first responder organizations such as law enforcement, fire/EMS agencies, and 911 public safety operating points (PSAPS), will be or have been informed to ensure they are aware of the test and confirm to the public the WEA message is a test. VDEM will provide a script to PSAPS to address any questions that might arise from the public as a result of these tests.

VDEM plans to record the test results and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution and understanding of the WEA test to your office. VDEM anticipates that, due to the nature of the proposed test, members of the public outside the affected localities may receive a test and accordingly will address this issue in its outreach materials and interaction with the public.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ed Porner, director of Disaster Response and Recovery, at edward.porner@vdem.virginia.gov or 804-897-9950. Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to hearing from you soon so we can move forward with our planning.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.

JDS/ep

C: Edward Porner, Director of Disaster Response and Recovery, VDEM